

ENGLEWOOD SCHOOLS
Englewood, Colorado
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
October 2, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: MS. KAREN MILLER, Presiding
MR. SCOTT GORSKY
MS. HEATHER HUNT
MRS. SHERRY SCAGGIARI
MS. SHELLEY THOMPSON

ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. James McCabe, Superintendent
Ms. Peg LaPlante, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Chris Gramstorff, Executive Director of HR
Ms. Gail Neubert, Director, Student Services
Ms. Mary Vedra, Director, Learning Services
Mr. Dale Stout, Director, Technology

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Samantha Schaffer, CFAHS Rep Martha Palmer
Vicki Howard Martha Grosskopf
Judy Cain Daniel Grosskopf
Christina Laird Les Cowger

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Miller, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Roscoe L. Davidson Administration Building.

Ms. Shelley Thompson requested a moment of silence to honor Olga Wolosyn, Mayor of Englewood, who passed away September 27, 2007; referring to Olga as a highly regarded, vibrant, energetic woman who contributed her time and talents to benefit the citizens and students of Englewood. Olga volunteered to teach art, sew costumes for plays and class activities, supported the performing arts including the Strings Attached program and served on the Englewood Education Foundation. Olga's tragic sudden death shocked and saddened the community; many will miss her.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. McCabe said there was a Personnel addendum; the agenda was adopted as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Thompson moved and Mrs. Scaggiari seconded to approve the September 18, 2007, Regular Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gorsky, Aye Mrs. Scaggiari, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Aye Ms. Thompson, Aye
Ms. Miller, Aye Motion Carried, 5-0

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- There were no public comments.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS AND RECOGNITION

There were no special reports.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Gorsky attended the Pirates' Homecoming football game and stated it was an overwhelming victory. Remarking that all the Homecoming activities were enjoyable including the presentation of the Homecoming King and Queen at halftime. The junior class float won first place and the new parade route seemed to be well received.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Dr. McCabe did not present a report to the Board

X. ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS1. AYP—CSAP

Ms. Mary Vedra reported on the AYP and CSAP status for the District. She provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation to the Board that highlighted District achievement. Stating that the new commissioner of education is looking at high school CSAP scores and considering changing the way high school students will be tested. High school students seem to take the ACT test more seriously because it impacts them where CSAP does not. Englewood Schools' achievement compares favorably to like sized districts, such as Mapleton and Sheridan, who face similar challenges as Englewood. Reading scores in the third grade showing the greatest improvement. There was a slight dip in ethnic groups scores at the middle school level and work for improvement is also required at the high school level. Ms. Hunt pointed out that in smaller groups like the ethnic groups one student with a low score can pull down the group score. Ms. Vedra stated that MAP testing shows good improvement in all grade levels. Students participating in PEAK learning demonstrate improved skills. Ms. Vedra announced that School Accountability Reports would be similar to last year's ratings. District reading showed third grade achievement of 69% Proficient/Advanced.

Highlights of the district's reading results included increased achievement within 3 of the grade levels tested.

- Selected 2006-07 Reading Initiatives
 - Elementary focus on the five components of reading
 - Secondary focus in vocabulary
 - Standards-Based Reporting K-5 (ELS 6-8)
 - Interventions using Successmaker, PLATO, extra learning
 - PEAK Instructional Integration
 - Progress monitoring, data analysis, and interventions by specialists
 - Developed Essential Learning Targets (6-8)

Highlights of the district's writing scores included increased achievement within 3 of the 8 grade levels tested with 7th grade scoring highest at 51 percent partially proficient/proficient and 9th grade lowest at 34 percent.

- Selected 2006-07 Writing Initiatives
 - K-8 intra-district analysis and scoring of student work
 - Expectations for writing across the curriculum
 - Standards-Based Reporting K-5 (ELA 6-8)
 - Focused Staff Development
 - Developed Essential Learning Targets at the middle level

Highlights of the district's math scores included increased achievement within 4 of the 8 grade levels tested with grade 4 scoring highest at 64 percent proficient/advanced and 91 percent reaching partially proficient/proficient/advanced levels. Stating that Everyday Math that uses real world problems and helps students relate has increased learning and higher scores are anticipated next year. Lower high school math scores reflect the increased rigor of the math test. Teachers have been working hard helping kids examine their learning and setting goals for themselves and the drop was unexpected.

- Selected 2006-07 Math Initiatives
 - Increased Math time K-5
 - Increased staff development in middle school
 - Computer-assisted instruction
 - Assuring highly qualified instructors
 - Developed Essential Learning Targets (6-8)
 - Increased technology tools 9-12
 - Transforming Learners Strategies

Ms. Scaggiari pointed out that a dip in scores was probably due to new tests being added. Ms. Thompson observed that whites usually score higher because traditionally they come from wealthier homes but in Englewood many white students come from economically disadvantaged homes and their scores are slipping, reflecting that condition.

Highlights of the district's science scores include a five percent increase in 8th grade science. Mr. Scott Wallace is working on integration of science learning with improved scores expected next year.

- 2006-07 Best Practices in Science
 - Integration of Science and Technology
 - Staff development
 - Implemented K-5 FOSS/Delta Materials
 - Secondary MAP testing
 - Alignment using revised Assessment Frameworks
 - Developed Essential Learning Targets (6-8)

Ms. Vedra explained that the ACT is designed to predict achievement in the first year of college and not to evaluate schools however; it is included in the School Accountability Report. Englewood students are close to State achievement levels. If a student fails to take the test their score is reported as a zero and this lowers the over-all score

Explaining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Ms. Vedra stated a school's scores must improve by 5% each year so a school may have to make up for poor past performance. At the elementary level 37 of 40 AYP indicators were met, 30 of 32 were met at the middle school level and 20 of 27 indicators were met at the high school level. The District has a rigorous plan to focus on achievement. The six step process for improved student achievement includes: 1) Determine the Guaranteed Curriculum; 2) Ensure a Viable Curriculum; 3) Develop a Language or Model of Instruction; 4) Provide Feedback on Learning Goals; 5) Engage in Structured Teacher Conversations; 6) Provide Timely Academic Intervention. Ms. Thompson asked if all the steps would be covered this year? Dr. McCabe stated that the curriculum is the focus this year so steps one and two will be the focus for 2007-08. Ms. Thompson emphasized that academic intervention for disadvantaged students is an immediate need that should be addressed.

2. Update on October 1 Count

Ms. Peg LaPlante provided information on the October 1 Count Day. October 1 was the official count day, although there is a ten-day window that allows districts to count students who attend but may have been absent on the official count day. Ms. LaPlante provided projected enrollment figures to determine the Budget; these were very close to the actual enrollment this year. However, these accurate budget figures do not mean the District's enrollment has stopped declining. The total enrollment this year is expected to be about 95 pupils fewer than last year. This drop is less than previous years with a decline of 224 students in 2006 and 160 in 2005. Mrs. Scaggiari asked if we submit the highest count in the ten-day window? Ms. LaPlante explained several of the factors involved in determining if a student may be counted. Ms. LaPlante stated that Colorado's Finest Alternative High School has more students than submitted and every aspect of the CFAHS count is being checked to be certain the count is accurate and compliant with CDE regulations.

3. Updated Attendance Policies—First Reading

Dr. McCabe presented three updated attendance policies for a 1st Reading. These three policies, recoded under the new lettering standard, replace the current policy 5120 dealing with compulsory attendance, absences, and truancy. Policy JH-Student Absences and Excuses had no changes. JH-E Student Attendance Plan for Habitually Absent Student required changing mandatory attendance age from sixteen to seventeen. Stating exhibits will not typically be included for Board approval Dr. McCabe explained that Board approval is not required for exhibits to allow for rapid updates and necessary changes to forms used in the schools. JHB-Truancy included an agency change of name only. Policies 5121 and 5122 were removed from the Board Policy Manual because they were more appropriately covered in the Englewood High School Handbook, as they are specific to that school. Stating that the process to change the Board Policies from the numeric system to the more extensively and CASB used letter system has been and will continue to be, more involved than expected.

Mrs. Scaggiari moved and Ms. Hunt seconded, to approve for a 1st Reading policies JFBA to replace Policy 5720, and JH, JH-E, and JHB to replace existing policy 5120.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Aye
Ms. Miller, Aye

Mrs. Scaggiari, Aye
Ms. Thompson, Aye
Motion Carried, 5-0

7. Board Members' Choice

- Ms. Samantha Schaffer, CFAHS student representative, expressed that count day was stressful. The students are finish up MAP testing. The session ends on October 9 so appeals are currently taking place. The new students are learning and understanding the system at CFAHS and the school culture. Family meetings are helping kids learn and adapt to the requirements of the school. The staff is working on improvement plans that include ways to increase student learning after disappointing CSAP scores.
- Ms. Thompson stressed the importance of Ms. Vedra's presentation on the District's CSAP and AYP scores and implications. Stating we must have high expectations for all students. The high and increasing poverty rates will make achievement challenging but poverty should never be an excuse. Emphasizing that the District must compare to schools that are high performing and not only schools similar to Englewood. Ms. Thompson finds the term "closing the gap" objectionable because that can be achieved through lower performance of the high achievers as well as by raising poor performance. Seeing a leveling off of achievement at the high school level as a trend that must be addressed along with the need to increase learning in disadvantaged populations.
- Ms. Scaggiari reported that the schools are doing a good job informing families of the change in distribution of non-curricular materials and letting them know flyers are available for pick up at established locations in the schools. Stating that she thought the EHS breakfast went very well.
- Ms. Hunt stated the new parade route was well liked by people who have provided feedback.
- Ms. Miller served as a judge for the Homecoming Parade. Hearing a few negative comments about eliminating the Broadway route but for the most part the comments were positive. Dr. McCabe interjected that the parade route seemed to have more people watching than last year. Mentioning that Englewood Middle School needs a banner, Ms. LaPlante said one was ordered but the vendor did not deliver as promised. Ms. Miller also enjoyed the Homecoming game.

X COMMUNICATIONS

A list of upcoming Board events is provided in the agenda.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Miller moved and Mrs. Scaggiari seconded, to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations in accordance to C.R.S. 24-6-402-(4)(e).

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Gorsky, Aye
Ms. Hunt, Aye
Ms. Miller, Aye

Mrs. Scaggiari, Aye
Ms. Thompson, Aye
Motion Carried, 5-0

The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:22 p.m.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. McCabe provided these items in the form of a memorandum.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Ms. Karen Miller, President
Board of Education

Linda Felling, Secretary to the
Superintendent and Board of Education

Date Approved